

CLAIMS

We claim:

- 1 1. A data input method comprising:
2 generating and displaying on a display screen a graphical input device, the
3 graphical input device being associated with a user-selectable parameter and having a
4 displayed data entry field of a first display width;
5 associating a set of user-dependent choices with the graphical input device;
6 sensing user selection of the graphical input device;
7 upon sensing user selection of the graphical input device, displaying on the
8 screen a list of the user-dependent choices, the list having a second display width;
9 sensing selection by a user of one of the user-dependent choices; and
10 displaying at least a portion of the selected user-dependent choice in the data
11 entry field and setting the user-selectable parameter to the selected user-dependent
12 choice;
13 in which:
14 the second display width is chosen as a function of display widths of the user-
15 dependent choices, such that the second display width may be greater than the first
16 display width.
- 1 2. A method as in claim 1, further including the following steps:
2 downloading, from a server, into a local computer, code for controlling display on
3 the display screen;
4 executing the downloaded code using a browser, the downloaded code being in
5 a mark-up language; and
6 generating the graphical input device by executing scripting that is embedded
7 within the downloaded code.
- 1 3. A method as in claim 2, in which the mark-up language is selected from
2 the group consisting of HTML and its derivatives.

1 4. A method as in claim 1, in which the step of generating and displaying the
2 graphical input device includes the sub-step of generating the graphical input device as
3 a non-menu, text-input graphic device but having the appearance of a drop-down menu.

1 5. A data input method comprising:
2 downloading, from a server, into a local computer, code for controlling a display
3 on a display screen;
4 executing the downloaded code using a browser;
5 by executing a subroutine that is embedded within the downloaded code,
6 generating and displaying on the display screen a graphical input device, the graphical
7 input device being associated with a user-selectable parameter and having a displayed
8 data entry field of a first display width;
9 associating a set of user-dependent choices with the graphical input device;
10 sensing user selection of the graphical input device;
11 upon sensing user selection of the graphical input device, displaying on the
12 screen a list of the user-dependent choices, the list having a second display width;
13 sensing selection by a user of one of the user-dependent choices; and
14 displaying at least a portion of the selected user-dependent choice in the data
15 entry field and setting the user-selectable parameter to the selected user-dependent
16 choice;
17 in which:
18 the second display width is chosen as a function of display widths of the user-
19 dependent choices, such that the second display width may be greater than the first
20 display width;
21 the downloaded code is in a mark-up language;
22 the subroutine is scripting embedded within the downloaded code; and
23 the step of generating and displaying the graphical input device includes the sub-
24 step of generating the graphical input device as a non-menu, text-input graphic device
25 but having the appearance of a drop-down menu.

1 6. In a computer system that receives web content expressed in a version or
2 derivative of the hypertext mark-up language HTML and executes the HTML-expressed

content in a browser to control a display and to receive input data from a user via a graphical user interface, a data input method comprising:

generating and displaying on a display screen a graphical input device by executing a corresponding HTML routine in the browser, the graphical input device being associated with a user-selectable parameter;

associating a set of user-dependent choices with the graphical input device;

embedding a non-HTML script within the HTML routine;

sensing user selection of the graphical input device;

upon sensing user selection of the graphical input device, displaying on the screen a list of the user-dependent choices, each user-dependent choice comprising a respective set of sequentially ordered characters;

associating with the list at least first and second key press events (KPE), the first KPE indicating completion of user selection of one of the user-dependent choices, the second KPE indicating user entry of any of the characters;

upon sensing any first KPE, rendering the list invisible on the display screen and executing a first portion of the non-HTML script to assign a currently selected one of the user-dependent choices to be the value of the user-selectable parameter;

upon sensing a first occurrence of any second KPE, executing a second portion of the non-HTML script, and searching and marking for the user a first one of the user-dependent choices whose first character matches the user-entered character constituting the sensed second KPE;

as long as second KPEs are sensed, and until any first KPE is sensed, upon sensing an n'th occurrence of any second KPE, searching and marking for the user a first one of the selectable data entries whose characters match the first through n'th user-entered characters constituting the first through n'th occurrence of second KPEs.

7. A method as in 6, in which the step of and searching and marking the first one of the user-dependent choices whose first character matches the user-entered character constituting the sensed second KPE comprises searching the user-dependent choices beginning to right of a delimiting character.